



# Ada County, Idaho

## *A Report to Our Citizens 2014*



### Introduction

Ada County is nationally recognized for its quality of life. Our mild climate, natural surroundings, cultural amenities and low crime rate are second to none. “Ada County”, as a branch of local government, has a key role in preserving and enhancing the life-style we all enjoy.

This report is designed to provide an overview of how your county government has performed over the past few years. Also included is a breakdown of county finances and a look ahead at future initiatives and developments.

### Profile of the Government

Ada County is the most populous county in Idaho, as well as the center for commerce and industry. Boise City is the county seat of Ada County and home to the State Capitol. Other incorporated cities within its boundaries are Eagle, Garden City, Kuna, Meridian and Star.

A three member elected commission with overlapping terms governs the County. Responsibilities of the County Commissioners include passing ordinances, adopting the budget, and appointing the heads of various departments. Other elected officials within the County include the Assessor, Clerk of the District Court, Coroner, Prosecutor, Sheriff and Treasurer.

Essential services provided by the county include police protection, prosecution and defense services, emergency disaster preparedness, general administrative services, court services, election services, property assessment and tax collections, code enforcement, parks and recreation, and health and welfare. In addition, emergency medical services, sanitation, fair activities, and billing services are provided as business type activities, with user fees providing revenue to pay operating expenses.

### Selected Demographics\*

	2012	2013
Population	409,061	416,464
Per Capita Income	\$41,250	\$42,395
Unemployment Rate	6.2%	5.7%
Percent of Total Workforce in Government	15%	13%
Ada County Full Time Equivalent Employees	1,654	1,693

\*Data for 2014 not yet available.

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### Mission

“To provide effective and efficient services and programs essential to our community’s quality of life.”

### Vision

“... demonstrate fiscal responsibility and professional excellence and to be recognized for providing innovative and proactive solutions for our communities through open and accessible government.”

### Philosophy

“Built on a foundation of our values — humanity, excellence, integrity, trust, and stewardship — we serve as leaders in our community.”

# How We Have Progressed

*Fiscal year 2014 (Oct 1, 2013 - Sept 30, 2014)*



## 2014 Accomplishments

- Transformation Board** – In previous years, departments requested capital needs independently of each other. The strategic model that was adopted was to have all capital requests detailed and submitted to a Transformation Board. The Board's mandate was to follow a county-wide perspective, as opposed to a departmental view, to prioritize major capital requests. The final product was presented to the County Commissioners as well as the county's six other elected officials and was met with unanimous support.
- Hydrogen Sulfide Scrubber** – The scrubber system will remove Hydrogen Sulfide (H<sub>2</sub>S) from gas that is extracted from the Ada County Landfill. H<sub>2</sub>S has an unpleasant odor that is detected by the human nose at very small concentrations. By removing H<sub>2</sub>S, more gas can be drawn from the landfill, which can then generate renewable energy. This system will enable the county to more easily manage the landfill gas field, providing a well-balanced and efficient gas collection system.
- Flood Insurance Program Award** - Ada County has received a National Flood Insurance Program award from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), due to effective floodplain management. This wise floodplain management has yielded a 20% discount on floodplain insurance premiums for Ada County property owners in floodplain areas.

## What the County Does for You: Selected County Services

Below is data on selected County services provided in the three previous fiscal years. The amount of the services provided will vary depending on demand and/or resources available. For more information on what the County does for you please visit [www.adacounty.id.gov](http://www.adacounty.id.gov)

### Governmental Activities

	2012	2013	2014	Projected	Met?
<b>General Government</b>					
Number of recorded documents	131,044	148,428	107,584	> last year	×
Primary election participation* (calendar year)	33,644	-	44,149	> 43,958	✓
General election participation* (calendar year)	184,040	-	131,038	> 122,175	✓
Residential building permits issued (outside cities)	308	431	396	> last year	×
Commercial building permits issued (outside cities)	12	5	20	> last year	✓
Motor vehicles registered (calendar year)	361,810	333,918	378,487	> last year	✓
Driver's licenses in force (calendar year)	285,790	292,728	298,696	> last year	✓
<b>Weed / Pest / Mosquito</b>					
Acres sprayed for weed control	3,601	3,980	2,542	> last year	×
Acres sprayed for pest control	37,022	14,145	7,611	> last year	×
Acres sprayed for mosquito abatement	56,651	105,262	78,865	> last year	×
<b>Ada County Sheriff's Office</b>					
% of 911 calls answered in 10 sec	94%	94%	93%	> 90%	✓
Traffic crashes in ACSO jurisdiction	789	956	923	< last year	×
Average patrol response time to critical emergencies (min:sec)	4:42	5:27	5:24	< 5 min	×
<b>Indigent Services</b>					
Number of indigent cases processed	2,605	2,590	2,177	< 2,590	✓
<b>Barber Park</b>					
Number of visitors	111,399	159,136	154,491	> last year	×

### Business Type Activities

Number of EMS responses	22,132	23,365	24,328	> last year	✓
Cubic yards of trash deposited at landfill (in 1000's)	1,177	1,198	1,263	> 1,174	×
Western Idaho Fair attendance	233,523	222,461	223,335	> last year	✓

*The measures reported on this page were included based on the information provided by various county departments except those denoted with an \* which were provided by the Secretary of State.*

*What would you like to see reported on in this page? Please let us know by contacting Anthony Lock-Smith at [alocksmith@adaweb.net](mailto:alocksmith@adaweb.net).*

[www.adacounty.id.gov](http://www.adacounty.id.gov)

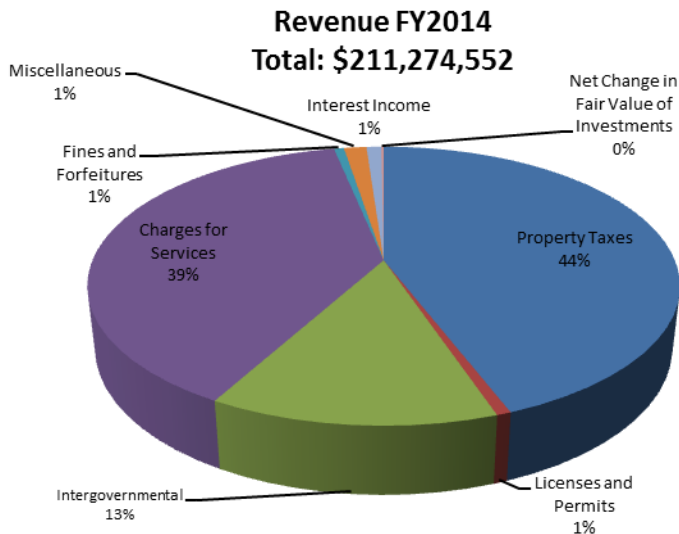
# Our Finances

## Revenues and Expenses

### What are the costs for servicing the citizens and how are those costs paid?

Government services are provided to enhance the quality of citizens' lives. These services generally are financed through taxes and intergovernmental revenues, while business-type activities are financed in whole or in part by fees charged to external parties. Most all the services provided by Ada County are mandated by Federal or State government via statute or constitutional provision. Ada County's fiscal year begins on October 1.

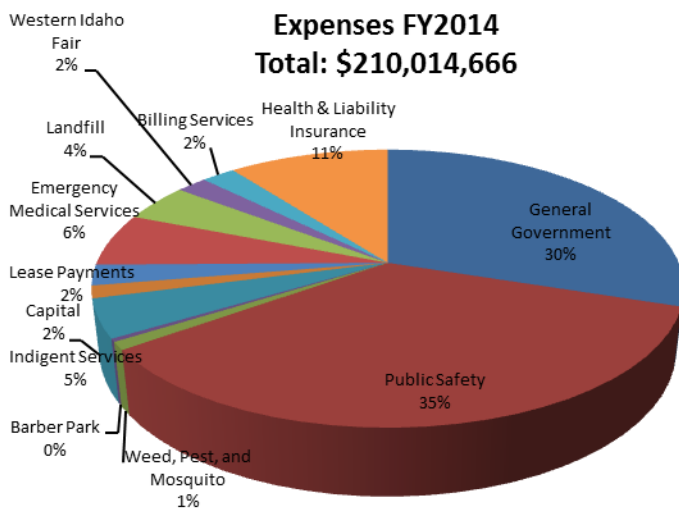
### Revenue



Revenue Type	Fiscal Year 13	Fiscal Year 14
Property Taxes	\$89,822,592	\$93,524,438
Licenses and Permits	1,459,086	1,408,659
Intergovernmental*	25,462,948	28,134,183
Charges for Services	78,116,275	81,987,656
Fines and Forfeitures	1,513,577	1,370,067
Miscellaneous	2,743,066	3,117,674
Interest Income	2,119,774	2,053,975
Net Change in Fair Value of Investments	(2,057,219)	(322,100)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$199,180,099</b>	<b>\$211,274,552</b>

\*Revenue received from other governmental agencies in the form of shared revenues or grants.

### Expenditures



Expense	Fiscal Year 13	Fiscal Year 14
General Government*	\$59,656,125	\$62,959,158
Public Safety	67,345,531	73,853,150
Weed, Pest, and Mosquito	1,995,693	1,965,653
Barber Park/Recreation	601,178	748,768
Indigent Services/Public Health	11,599,625	9,429,769
Capital (expenses over \$20K)	7,321,002	3,054,923
Lease Payments	4,936,736	5,046,213
Emergency Medical Services	11,685,492	12,945,637
Landfill	8,854,411	9,226,874
Western Idaho Fair	4,153,565	4,198,713
Billing Services	4,510,682	4,624,633
Health & Liability Insurance	19,442,252	21,961,175
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$202,102,292</b>	<b>\$210,014,666</b>

\*Includes the following departments, Clerk of the Court, Treasurer, Assessor, Motor Vehicle, Operations, Information Technology, Development Services, Administrative Services, Appraisal, Land Records and District Court.

### Independent Audit

An independent audit of the County's finances was conducted, resulting in a clean opinion. Complete financial information can be found at [www.adacounty.id.gov](http://www.adacounty.id.gov)



# What's Next

## Key Initiatives in 2015



**Christopher D. Rich**  
Clerk of the District Court  
Ex-officio Auditor & Recorder

Ada County Courthouse  
200 W. Front Street #1196  
Boise, ID 83702-7300  
208.287.6879

[www.adacounty.id.gov](http://www.adacounty.id.gov)

### We want to hear from you

Do you like this report?  
Would you like to see other information? Please let us know by contacting Anthony Lock-Smith at [alocksmith@adaweb.net](mailto:alocksmith@adaweb.net). For more information on our services, visit our website at [www.adacounty.id.gov](http://www.adacounty.id.gov)

### Government

- **Courthouse Lease Payoff** - When the construction of the courthouse was funded with a lease through Capital City Development Corporation in 1999, it was the desire of the county to take ownership as early as possible. Before the recession, year-end savings were set aside annually to facilitate an early pay-off. Because of this prior planning, Ada County is in a position to buy out the lease in August of 2015. The FY15 budget has allocated \$37M towards the payment of the lease and will save \$6M in future interest payments.
- **IT Asset Replacement**-There is a need for a replacement of data backup systems in the Courthouse and at the Benjamin facility. This investment will provide much needed expansion of the county's data storage capabilities. Large sections of the core infrastructure around file servers and networking equipment are

also in need of replacement due to age. Much of the networking hardware being replaced is at the Sheriff's Barrister facility.

### Judicial

- **Paperless E-Court System**- Ada County as well as Idaho's other 43 county Clerks will benefit from the Supreme Court transitioning their paper based case management system to a paperless e-court. The Prosecutor and Public Defender will upgrade to compatible software modules as part of the switch. Data migration and training won't be covered. Case management software for the civil operation of the Prosecutor's Office will have to be acquired. The cost to migrate both offices to the new platform and acquire a new civil module is \$257,000.

### Public Safety

- **Jail Security System**- The Sheriff is responsible for housing 876 inmates daily. The jail's security system, which

controls all the doors, emergency alert buttons and cameras is approaching end of life. The cost to replace the system is \$1.15M over a two year period.

- **Dispatch Center**- Ada County dispatch provides 9-1-1 response to the County's 425,000 residents through the Sheriff's Office, the Boise, Meridian, and Garden City Police departments, six fire districts and Ada County Paramedics. The current dispatch center is 40 years old and encompasses a mere 1,500 square feet. The space is overutilized and over crowded. Not only is dispatch out of space, its IT infrastructure is maximized and could potentially fail from an overload. The FY15 budget is the first step in a multi-year process to assure that when Ada County Residents call 9-1-1 they do not get a busy signal. The FY15 budget has \$4.1M budgeted for building construction and dispatch equipment.



Ada County Courthouse

